

## Draft Joint Messages for 20 June Community Meeting

[23 May 2013]

**Measured progress is being made toward improving water quality and habitats in the Animas River near Silverton, and we remain fully committed to working collaboratively to address the issue on the ground as soon as possible**

- Work continues at the Red and Bonita portal to analyze the potential for bulkheading or water diversion
  - *Additional work scheduled for 2013*
- We are working collaboratively to remediate the Clipper Site, to which end Sunnyside has committed \$75K of the previously offered \$6.5M
  - *This will result in a significant reduction in metals loading from the Clipper Site*
- Good progress is being made on settlement documentation that will free up the \$6.5M offered by Sunnyside
  - *Information has been exchanged by EPA and Sunnyside*
  - *Work is well underway on a Settlement Agreement (Consent Decree)*
- A number of studies have been completed or are underway, as part of the effort to fully understand the problem and the most efficient means of remediation
  - *EPA Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment completed; EPA Summary Water Quality Report – Four Mines Within Cement Creek Watershed completed; Sunnyside sponsored mass loading analysis and evaluation of certain proven water treatment alternatives completed; BLM/USGS fate/transport model underway; EPA Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment underway; test treatment of Cement Creek with limestone sand being considered; BLM testing on ElectroCoagulation treatment; etc.; etc.*
- We are supporting an innovative crowdsourcing effort to discover more efficient methodologies of addressing acid rock drainage
  - *Sunnyside has committed \$7,500 and is working with industry and NGOs to gain additional funding (Already committed – TU, \$5,000; NMA, \$5,000; NWMA \$1,000; Freeport \$7,500)*
  - *[Are EPA/BLM in a position to support this effort?]*